


Update Report from the Climate Change Advisory Task Force
September 1, 2010

Pursuant to Ordinance 06-113, I am pleased to submit this update report of the Climate Change Advisory Task Force (CCATF) to the Chair and Members of the Budget, Planning & Sustainability Committee. As you are aware, the CCATF is charged with identifying potential future climate change impacts to Miami-Dade County and then providing recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners regarding actions that should be taken to begin adapting for and mitigating these impacts. As you also know, in the fall of 2009, the County began significant steps toward developing a full action plan on climate change mitigation and sustainability. Under the guidance of the Office of Sustainability (OOS), the County's new Greenprint will come to you for consideration in the very near future.

Over the past year, the CCATF has been working closely with the OOS and other County staff to ensure that our recommendations are actionable under the proposed Greenprint. To that end, we restructured our Committees to focus on adaptation strategies and scenario planning, since CCATF and OOS feel that the County has made significant strides in implementing climate mitigation strategies. In January 2010, our Built Environment Adaptation Committee, chaired by Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, and our Economic, Social, & Health Committee, chaired by Captain Dan Kipnis, began to meet together as a Collaborative Committee. More recently, our Greenhouse Gas Subcommittees, Transportation and Alternate Fuels chaired by Jose K. Fuentes and Buildings and Energy chaired by Jane Gilbert, have merged once again under the direction of Richard Pettigrew. The Science Committee, chaired by Dr. Hal Wanless, and the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, chaired by Carolyn Dekle, have continued to meet separately. The Natural Science Adaptation Committee, Chaired by Dan Kimball, has not met due to Mr. Kimball's assignment to the Deepwater Horizon Response Center.

As already mentioned, the Task Force is coordinating our activities with the Office of Sustainability. The full Task Force was invited to provide the County any final recommendations on the draft Greenprint goals and initiatives at a meeting with the Mayor's Advisory Task Force on August 19, 2010. While not all of the CCATF recommendations are a part of the draft Greenprint, I have set priorities for legislating CCATF recommendations with assistance from Assistant County Attorney Abbie Schwaderer. A full listing of the CCATF recommendations and their status, updated as of August 31, 2010, is attached for your review.

I plan to hold a full Task Force meeting in November or early December to allow the members to review the CCATF recommendations status, to vote on any new recommendations from the Committees, and to review any final Greenprint that might have been adopted by the Board of County Commissioners. At this time, I would like to let you know that CCATF members and I fully support the Greenprint as proposed and congratulate Sustainability Director Susy Torriente for an excellent result in what I'm sure to her seems like a very short year.


Harvey Ruvin, Chair